

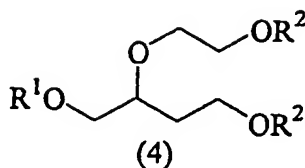
Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-25 (canceled).

26 (new): A compound of formula



or its optically active derivative, wherein each of R¹ and R² is a different protecting group for alcohol selected from the group consisting of a silyl ether-protecting group, a phenyl-substituted methyl-protecting group, and an acetal-protecting group, such that R² is removable by a deprotection reaction that does not remove R¹.

27 (new): The compound according to claim 26 wherein the silyl ether-protecting group is triethylsilyl, tert-butyldimethylsilyl or tert-butyldiphenylsilyl, the phenyl-substituted methyl-

protecting group is benzyl, p-methoxybenzyl or trityl, and the acetal protecting group is tetrahydropyranyl or methoxymethyl.

28 (new): The compound according to claim 26 wherein R² is a phenyl-substituted methyl-protecting group and R¹ is trityl.

29 (new): The compound according to claim 28 wherein R² is benzyl.

30 (new): The compound according to claim 26, wherein R² is tert-butyldimethylsilyl and R¹ is a phenyl-substituted methyl-protecting group.

31 (new): The compound according to claim 29, wherein R¹ is trityl.